

App. Control No. 09/843,914
Art Unit: 3762

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for distinguishing detecting a hemodynamically stable tachycardia from a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia, comprising:

sensing a heart rate;
comparing the heart rate to a heart rate threshold value;
monitoring a blood pressure sensor upon detecting the heart rate greater than the heart rate threshold value to detect a substantial drop in blood pressure;
invoking a first number of intervals detected (NID) threshold upon detecting the heart rate greater than the heart rate threshold value if a substantial drop in blood pressure is not detected;
invoking a second NID threshold that is lower than the first NID threshold upon detecting a substantial drop in blood pressure;
counting a consecutive number of intervals in which the heart rate is greater than the heart rate threshold value;
making a tachycardia detection if the consecutive number of intervals satisfies the invoked NID threshold, the tachycardia detection being a detection of a hemodynamically stable tachycardia if the first NID threshold is invoked and the tachycardia detection being a detection of a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia if the second NID threshold is invoked ; and
delivering a first low power tachycardia response therapy upon making a tachycardia detection that the tachycardia is a hemodynamically stable tachycardia and delivering a second high power tachycardia response therapy upon detection that the tachycardia that is a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia, without reference to any direct patient activity sensor input signals.

2-19. (cancelled)

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20. (currently amended) A pacing apparatus, comprising:
- sensing and pacing circuitry for sensing cardiac activity and generating pacing pulses;
 - a blood pressure sensor to detect a substantial drop in blood pressure; and
 - controller circuitry coupled to the blood pressure sensor, the controller circuitry operable to:
 - sense a heart rate;
 - compare the heart rate to a heart rate threshold value;
 - monitor a blood pressure sensor upon detecting the heart rate greater than the heart rate threshold value to detect a substantial drop in blood pressure;
 - invoke a first number of intervals detected (NID) threshold upon detecting the heart rate greater than the heart rate threshold value if a substantial drop in blood pressure is not detected;
 - invoke a second NID threshold that is lower than the first NID threshold upon detecting a substantial drop in blood pressure;
 - count a consecutive number of intervals in which the heart rate is greater than the heart rate threshold value;
 - make a tachycardia detection if the consecutive number of intervals satisfies the invoked NID threshold, the tachycardia detection being a detection of a hemodynamically stable tachycardia if the first NID threshold is invoked and the tachycardia detection being a detection of a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia if the second NID threshold is invoked; and
 - deliver a ~~first~~ low power tachycardia response therapy upon making a tachycardia detection that the tachycardia is a hemodynamically stable tachycardia and delivering a ~~second~~ high power tachycardia response therapy upon detection that the tachycardia that is a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia, without reference to any direct patient activity sensor input signals.

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21-36. (cancelled)

37. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the low power tachycardia response therapy comprises one of an anti-tachycardia pacing regimen and a cardioversion therapy.
38. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the high power tachycardia response therapy comprises a defibrillation therapy.
39. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the defibrillation therapy comprises at least thirty joules of delivered energy.
40. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the defibrillation therapy comprises a ventricular defibrillation therapy.
41. (new) A method according to claim 20, wherein the low power tachycardia response therapy comprises one of an anti-tachycardia pacing regimen and a cardioversion therapy.
42. (new) A method according to claim 20, wherein the high power tachycardia response therapy comprises a defibrillation therapy.
43. (new) A method according to claim 42, wherein the defibrillation therapy comprises at least thirty joules of delivered energy.
44. (new) A method according to claim 42, wherein the defibrillation therapy comprises a ventricular defibrillation therapy.

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45. (new) A computer readable medium for storing executable instructions to operate a medical device and cause said medical device to distinguish a hemodynamically stable tachycardia from a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia, comprising:

- instructions for sensing a heart rate;
- instructions for comparing the heart rate to a heart rate threshold value;
- instructions for monitoring a blood pressure sensor upon detecting the heart rate greater than the heart rate threshold value to detect a substantial drop in blood pressure;
- instructions for invoking a first number of intervals detected (NID) threshold upon detecting the heart rate greater than the heart rate threshold value if a substantial drop in blood pressure is not detected;
- instructions for invoking a second NID threshold that is lower than the first NID threshold upon detecting a substantial drop in blood pressure;
- instructions for counting a consecutive number of intervals in which the heart rate is greater than the heart rate threshold value;
- instructions for making a tachycardia detection if the consecutive number of intervals satisfies the invoked NID threshold, the tachycardia detection being a detection of a hemodynamically stable tachycardia if the first NID threshold is invoked and the tachycardia detection being a detection of a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia if the second NID threshold is invoked; and
- instructions for delivering a first low power tachycardia response therapy upon making a tachycardia detection that the tachycardia is a hemodynamically stable tachycardia and delivering a second high power tachycardia response therapy upon detection that the tachycardia that is a hemodynamically unstable tachycardia, without reference to any direct patient activity sensor input signals.

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46 (new) A medium according to claim 45, wherein the low power tachycardia response therapy comprises one of an anti-tachycardia pacing regimen and a cardioversion therapy.

47. (new) A medium to claim 45, wherein the high power tachycardia response therapy comprises a defibrillation therapy.

48. (new) A medium according to claim 47, wherein the defibrillation therapy comprises at least thirty joules of delivered energy.

49. (new) A medium according to claim 47, wherein the defibrillation therapy comprises a ventricular defibrillation therapy.